



Friends Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation



Jacob Wrestles with the Angel
Peter Koeing

September 29, 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: Carolyn Young & Kathy Miller
Greeters: Megan Alvear & Lanette and Rick Schulte

Next Sunday, Oct 6:
Lay Leaders: Diane Simpson & Anne Wehrly
Communion Stewards: Susan Fontaine
Greeters: Doris Machinski

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.

Nineteenth 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.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

"Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it."

-Mark Twain

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Trent Williams

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

Kathy Miller

One: When our spirits are restless and unsettled, when peace is nowhere to be found, the grace of God wraps around us.

All: We do not rush through periods of darkness, but welcome their gift that transforms.

One: In seasons of despair, truth comes to wrestle with us.

All: In silence, honesty voices its concerns.

One: From the unknowns that surround, possibilities emerge.

All: Courage calls us to linger patiently in discomfort.

One: In the light of day and the dark of night, God is with us.

All: Thanks be to God who upholds us in love.

***OPENING HYMN - No. 439 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

Ein' Feste Burg

***INVOCATION**

Kathy Miller

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dan De Leon

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

Dan De Leon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)

Dan De Leon

**God of Everlasting Change,
We confess that we are stubborn. We don't like change.
We want things to stay as they once were.
Like the people of the Exodus, O God,
sometimes we remember only the good things of the past
and forget the horrors that you have helped us to leave behind.
Like the people of the Exile, O God,
sometimes we have grown comfortable with the status quo
instead of remembering that you have called us into liberation.
Transform our hearts, O God. Open us to listen for Your Wisdom.
Help us to know your transformative love.
Guide us to move into your ways of compassion, justice, healing, and hope.
In the name of Christ, who calls us all into resurrection,
into new life now and forever, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Dan De Leon

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
Many: And also with you!

*HYMN OF RESPONSE - Purify My Heart

♩ = 120 C G/B Am Cmaj7/G F C/E

Pur - i - fy my heart, touch me with Your cleans - ing

7 Fmaj7 G Dm G/B Am Cmaj7/G

fi - - re. Take me to the cross, Your

13 F C/E F Gsus G G/B C

hol - i - ness is my de - si - - re. Breathe Your

19 G/B F2/A C/G F C/E Dsus Dm G C/E

life in me, kin - dle a love that flows from Your throne. Oh,

26 F G C/E F C/E Dm Gsus G G7sus C

pur - i - fy my heart, Pur - i - fy my heart.

33

“And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you.

Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool.

I am silent; I do not open my mouth, for it is you who have done it.

Remove your stroke from me; I am worn down by the blows of your hand.

“You chastise mortals in punishment for sin, consuming like a moth what is dear to them; surely everyone is a mere breath. Selah

“Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; do not hold your peace at my tears. For I am your passing guest, an alien, like all my forebears.

Turn your gaze away from me, that I may smile again, before I depart and am no more.”

CHORAL ANTHEM - Put Peace into Each Other's Hands - Irish melody, words by Fred Kaan, arranged by Jane Holstein

Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it; protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation; be gentle in your words and
ways, in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands, like bread we break for sharing; look people warmly in
the eye: our life is meant for caring.

Give thanks for strong yet tender hands, held out in trust and blessing. Where words fall
short, let hands speak out, the heights of love expressing.

Put Christ into each other's hands, he is love's deepest measure; in love make peace, give
peace a chance and share it like a treasure; and share it like a treasure.

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Genesis 32:24-32, NRSV

Brooke Dooley

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

"The Bridge Which Christ Had Built"

Brooke Dooley

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

FAITH IN ACTION MOMENT: CROCKETT ELEMENTARY

Jodie Robinson

INVITATION TO SHARE

Kathy Miller

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

Spirit of Transformation, come and bless these offerings to the work of your love. As forces of evil and empire work to kindle their fear in us, embolden our faith. Make us persistent, determined, resolute in the way of life. Trusting your hand to uphold us, we endeavor to struggle against injustice within and around. Amen.

***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** - No. 474 I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me

I'm So Glad

***BENEDICTION**

Brooke Dooley

POSTLUDE

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus - Helen H. Lemmel, arranged by Martha Mier
Offertory: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less - John B. Dykes, arranged by Randall Hartsell
Postlude: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Ein' Feste Burg) - Martin Luther, arranged by
Marilynn Ham

Scriptures for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 6, 2024: Scriptures for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 6, 2024: Revelation 3:20; 1 Corinthians 11:20-22; Luke 5:27-29

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

FAMILY PROMISE, SEPT 29-OCT 5: Family Promise of Bryan-College Station (FPBCS), a ministry of Friends Church since 2008, has as its mission “to help homeless children and their families achieve sustainable independence.” Friends Church will be hosting two families at the Family Promise Center for a week starting Sunday, September 29th. You can be a part of this vital ministry. Options for helping: prepare a meal, provide breakfast & lunch food, or spend the night at the Family Promise Center. Learn more about Family Promise and sign up on Sunday morning in the fellowship area after worship. Direct questions or offers to volunteer to Mary Howell mhowell61@gmail.com or Sally Manthei manthei_sally@aol.com.

FABULOUS AT ANY AGE - CRAFTING WITH LANETTE, OCT 1: Are you Fabulous at Any Age (and, really, aren't we all?)? Then join us for Crafting with Lanette on Tuesday, October 1, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. No experience required and no special skills needed, just come and have fun! All supplies will be provided. If folks are interested, we'll go together for lunch afterwards.

FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, OCT 4: 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.

FALL MEETING OF THE HEART OF TEXAS ASSOCIATION, OCT 5: Faith United Church of Christ in New Braunfels is hosting our Heart of Texas Association's Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 5th. Registration begins at 9:30am followed by Worship & Meeting at 10am (onsite and online). The meeting includes an Ecclesiastical Council for our own Member in Discernment Kyle Riley. Register online at <https://bit.ly/4d8t29g>.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION, OCT 6: Voter Registration and information table in front of church, October 6, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteer Deputy Registrars will be staffing the table to register voters and answer all your questions about upcoming elections and deadlines.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRIENDS GREETERS NEEDED: Join our Friends Church greeter team! We are in need of additional folks to help welcome people on Sunday mornings and make our worship services flow smoothly. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Worship Committee chair Charity Stokes at worship@friends-ucc.org. You can also sign up online here: bit.ly/FriendsGreeter.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: We have all the Sunday school classes covered but are still looking for volunteers who could be called when teachers are out of town to be substitutes. Please let Pastor Dan or Abby Burley, Christian_ed@friends-ucc.org, know if we can add you to our list.

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/coffeeatfriends or email Jan 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.

SAVE THE DATE

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY WITH WOMEN, OCT 9: Wonderful Wednesdays with Women will on Wednesday, October 9, location TBD. This is a casual, come-and-go event. All are welcome! Contact Stacy De Leon if you need more information.

GUYZ BREAKFAST, OCT 12: 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.

OUTOBERFEST, OCT 12: Join Friends Congregational Church at the the Pride Community Center for OUToberfest 2024 the first-ever Brazos Valley Pride Festival, located right in downtown Bryan! Friends will have a sponsored booth present for the entire festival. Artisan market, food and drink vendors, local non-profit and community resources, big stage performances, and more! Performer line-up and other details TBA. Volunteers needed and very much appreciated! Reach out to Megan for more information at evangelism@friends-ucc.org.

FABULOUS AT ANY AGE - MISSION WACO SOCIAL ENTERPRISE TOUR, OCT 17: SAVE THE DATE to learn and see Mission Waco's Social Enterprise Programs. Fabulous at Any Age will spend the day learning how Mission Waco has contributed to the development of North Waco Community's financial well-being and bettering the quality of life for our neighbors who live there. We'll tour Jubilee Food Market, Urban REAP and the Fair Trade Market and have lunch at World Cup Cafe.

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, OCT 31: For October, join the book club for the last meeting of the year. We will be reading Anthony Ray Hinton's *The Sun Does Shine*. 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*)
pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org

Administrative Assistant

Michael Rangel (*he, him*)
office@friends-ucc.org

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.