



**Friends Church**

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*



*Francis of Assisi*

November 5, 2023

11:00am

All Saints Day

## 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: Anne Wehrly & Becky Burks  
Communion Stewards: Susan Fontaine & Holly Scott  
Greeters: Maura Ives & Tim Scott

Next Sunday, Nov. 12:  
Lay Leaders: Anne Nichols & Tyler Baker-Willkinson  
Greeters: Kathy Yeager

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](mailto: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.

## *Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost, All Saints Day*

All Saints Day, also called All Hallows Day, Halloween, or Feast of All Saints, in the Christian Church, commemorates all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have entered into God's marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). It is celebrated on November 1 in the Western churches and on the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Eastern churches.

### **PSALM FOR MEDITATION:** Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37, NRSV

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground, a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the wickedness of its inhabitants. He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. And there he lets the hungry live, and they establish a town to live in; they sow fields, and plant vineyards, and get a fruitful yield.

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

### **WORDS OF WELCOME**

Kyle Riley

### **PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP, WRITTEN BY BETH MERRILL NEEL ON HER BLOG, "HOLD FAST TO WHAT IS GOOD"**

Becky Burks

One: In the beginning, God called the world into being, saying,

**All: "Let there be light!"**

One: In the fullness of time, Jesus came from God to us, saying,

**All: "I am the Light of the world."**

One: In our everyday life, we see the work of the saints,

**All: The ones in whom God's light shines.**

One: So let us give thanks for the saints this day,

**All: And let us worship God.**

One: We gather this morning to remember our call:

**All: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.**

One: We bring with us the events of the week in the world and in our lives,

**All: Trying to know how to be just, loving and humble in the midst of it all.**

One: We gather here, and remember those who have done justice,  
who have been kind beyond measure,  
who have set the example for humility.

**All: And we gather here and see those who do justice,  
who are kind beyond measure, who set the example for humility.**

One: With gratitude for all the saints,

**All: let us worship God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 299 For All the Saints**

Tune: Sine Nomine

**\*INVOCATION**

Becky Burks

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kyle Riley

*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 (oh let it shine)!**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Brooke Dooley

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Brooke Dooley

**Creator God of our Ancestors,**

**We confess that we have failed to see one another as siblings, as your children.**

**We Christians have perpetuated division through stereotypes, prejudice, and hate.**

**We have practiced supersessionism and harmed our Jewish neighbors.**

**We have been ignorant of colonizing practices and Western supremacy and harmed our Muslim neighbors.**

**We have failed to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

**As we ask for forgiveness, O God, we also ask for guidance on how we hold ourselves accountable.**

**We pray for Your wisdom and insight in how we enter the hard work of reparation, reconciliation, and restoration.**

**Lead us in Your ways of justice and mercy, in listening and understanding. Amen.**

## SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Brooke Dooley

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Brooke Dooley

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you!**

### EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, CEB

Becky Burks

You remember, brothers and sisters, our efforts and hard work. We preached God's good news to you, while we worked night and day so we wouldn't be a burden on any of you. You and God are witnesses of how holy, just, and blameless we were toward you believers. Likewise, you know how we treated each of you like a father treats his own children. We appealed to you, encouraged you, and pleaded with you to live lives worthy of the God who is calling you into his own kingdom and glory. We also thank God constantly for this: when you accepted God's word that you heard from us, you welcomed it for what it truly is. Instead of accepting it as a human message, you accepted it as God's message, and it continues to work in you who are believers.

## **CHORAL ANTHEM:** A Flower Remembered - John Rutter

A flower remembered can never wither: for ever blooming as bright as day, its fragrance lingering like music softly playing, a gentle voice that's saying, "I'll never fade away." I hear the echoes of many voices; sometimes they're distant, sometimes so clear; through all the sounds of life they seem to whisper, "Will you remember, will you remember, will you remember?"

The birds fly homeward across my valley toward the mountains all white with snow; the birds are gone now, the mountain snows have melted, but still I see their beauty, these scenes of long ago. The birds still fly in other valleys; the snows have turned to flowing streams; all things must pass, but memories are lasting: we will remember, we will remember, we will remember.

## **GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 23:1-12, NRSV

Dan De Leon

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

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

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

## **THE MESSAGE**

Dan De Leon

## **MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

"For All We Know," by Donny Hathaway

Kenshi Westover

## **INVITATION TO SHARE**

Becky Burks

## OFFERTORY

Secure online giving via Realm Giving at [bit.ly/givetofriendsucc](https://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

Brooke Dooley

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brooke Dooley

## REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

Alex Cannon, Kenshi Westover

Lorelai Adams	Fergie Anderson	Dianna Ashley
Mark Aulabaugh	Jon Jay Baker	Ray Bacak
Brian Blake	Jesse Buffington	Nathan Dean Coffey
Mrs. Conrad	Melissa Dandeff	Martha Ann Dixon
Gordon Doty	Wanita Doty	Suzi Edgeworth
Kathy Edmondson	Dariel Esquivel	Philip Eastman Fitzpatrick
Mark Fossett	Carrie Garrett	Albert Gomez, Sr
Don Ray Halverson	Lacy Haynes	David Lee Herkelman
Jane Hibbetts	Gary Ives	Chief Johnson
Mirek Markevich	Ken Moore	David Morgan
Monnie Mylet	Angoon Nittayajarn	Mike Odegard
Jackie Ortiz	Lili Percy	Silke Pfluger
Grant Poole	Catarino Quintanilla	Larry Ringer
Chap Knox Robinson	Aline Scasta	Steve Shabek
Chris Spang	Tonia Steens-Hart	Frances Hampton Stephenson
Charlotte Swoboda	Aiden Blaine Trauber	Louis Turner
Jack Wiederstein	Quentin Williams	Christopher Witt
William Young		

## Our Saints who passed in previous years

Al & Pauline (Tootie)	Romeo Alford	Betty Anderson
Harold Anderson	Wynema Anderson	Louise Armstrong
Julian Paul Beer	Walter Bertsch	Cliff Bowden
Delores Brune	William Brune III	Delbert Bryant
Minnie Bryant	Don & Marie Casey	Edna Chapman
Jackie Shidey Champion	Paloma Cavazos	Robert Cetina
Hungdal Chiu	Milton Clark	Linda Coats
Mildred Cofer	Ellen Collins	Anne Coltharp
George Corolla	Leeatra Davis	Prudencio De Leon
Joe Dudley	Duffy	Frances Engler
Roy Engler	Faith Falcon	Bonnie Roblyer Flanders
Marc Fossett	Doris Gardner	Wayne Gibson
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	Dorothy Guild	George Guild
Butch Hamilton	Glen Hamman	Kimberly Hartsfield
Cecil Haynes Jr.	Corky Hibbetts	Emily Hope Hoffer
Nelson Holz	Patricia Holz	Harry N. Howell Jr
Opal McMullen Johnson	James Jim Johnston	Verna Krauss
Young-Wha Kim	Brent Lamsfork	Selinda Larson
Lionel Ledesma	Norman Leftwich	Rick Lopez
Ludy and Gladys Manthei	Garrett & Danny Manthai	Bryan Marston
Thomas Francis Mackin	Romona McCain	James Henry McMullen
Annabelle Kent McMullen	Mr & Mrs C. T. Mehrtens	Guadalupe Mendez
Guadalupe Mendez Jr	Mark Mikeela	Jorge Mulato
Adison Nittayajarn	Margaret Norris	David Nurse
Julie Odegaard	Robin Pace	Anthony John Palmer
Marti Parr	Paul Parrish	Miriam Pool
Walter, Sally, Cyndi Patscheider	Corlvin Prejean Sr.	Elise Prejean
Sawalee Puskoon	Timothy Rafferly	Dora Ramirez
Robert Ramirez	H. E. & Lorene Richter	Burnia Riley
Francisco & Angelica Ramirez	Baja (Basha) Robinson	Robert Robinson
Don & Donna Roblyer	Randy Roblyer	Renee Rowe
Dee Salinas	Kiva Sandberg	Steven Schloss
Ann Schoeneman	Mrs. Shaleousri	Jim Shanhanls
Nell Shirley	Clark Shoemaker	Frances Shoemaker
Walter Simpson	Sandi Smith	Lela Mae Stokes
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Simpson, Sr.	Sondra Stokes	Rev. Carol Tag
Dave Tag	Judy Temple	Rob Temple



Ronnie Temple  
David Plankey Videla  
Rosa Vasquez  
Helda Wade  
Jim Wild  
Cledia Witt  
Mary Young

Unternaber  
J. R. Vasquez  
Rev. Lloyd VauVaetor  
Keiko Hayashi Westover  
Quinterrian “Tunka” White  
Leonard Witt

Raymond Plankey Videla  
Jacinto Vasquez  
Russell Wade  
Sandy Whitaker  
Joseph Wilson III  
Edna & Red Womack

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Brooke Dooley, Kyle Riley

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Kyle Riley

**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 our 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.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #298** O Savior, for the Saints

Tune: Festal Song

**\*BENEDICTION**

Dan De Leon

## **POSTLUDE**

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Instrumental Music:

Prelude: Deep River - Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Larry Shackley  
Offertory: Shall We Gather at the River? - Robert Lowry, arranged by Joel Raney  
Communion: Pie Jesu (from *Requiem*, Op. 48) - Gabriel Fauré (NOTE the italics on “*Requiem*”)  
Postlude: Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious - William Owen, arranged by Cindy Berry

Scripture for Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 12, 2023: Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;  
Matthew 25:1-13

## 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](mailto:office@friends-ucc.org).

**GREETERS & COMMUNION STEWARDS NEEDED:** Several of our regular volunteers for greeting and for setting up and serving communion in the 9am worship services are not available this scheduling cycle. If you can help with a 9am Sunday service or two in their absence, please contact Worship Committee Chair Ryan Womack: [worship@friends-ucc.org](mailto:worship@friends-ucc.org).

**COFFEE & KITCHEN HELP NEEDED:** Volunteers are needed to prepare coffee before and to clean up the kitchen after Sunday services. A signup sheet is on the counter in the kitchen along with a description of duties. For more information contact [fellowship@friends-ucc.org](mailto:fellowship@friends-ucc.org).

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT ATTENDING THE 9AM WORSHIP SERVICE?** For the earlier risers out there, Friends Church offers a 9am service on Sundays that functions more like a prayer service than the more traditional 11am service. While many aspects are similar to the 11am (children’s message, sermon, singing), the 9am offers a more intimate space for contemplative worship, with the lighting of candles for intercessory prayers that we share together and time for silent meditation. We invite you consider attending this earlier service at 9am on a Sunday soon at Friends.

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH WOMEN** will gather on November 8 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Hotel McCoy (3702 State Highway 6 S, College Station, Texas, 77845). All are welcome at this informal, come-and-go activity where we enjoy getting to know one another in a relaxed, social environment.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DEC. 10:** It’s official! With 24 families participating in our poll for the most inclusive date, it has been determined that this year’s children- & youth-led Christmas pageant will be on Dec. 10, the Second Sunday of Advent, in the 11am worship service. Parents, stay tuned for information on casting, scripts, and rehearsals.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED:** Are you feeling called to teach our children or youth? We need one substitute teacher for Grades 3-5, two teachers for Grades 6-8, and one teacher for Grades 9-12. Right now, we have classes with at least one teacher for Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 at 10am at Friends Church. We hope to start a class for our Pre K children, but we need volunteers to make this happen. One of our current Sunday School teachers would like to start the PreK class, but needs someone(s) to replace them in their current role. Contact Pastor Dan for more information: [pastor@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@friends-ucc.org).

**TRANSPORTATION HELP:** We are putting together a Transportation Team to help church members who need assistance getting to church on Sunday. With enough help, this will be a once/quarter commitment. To join the team, send an email to [Nurture@friends-ucc.org](mailto:Nurture@friends-ucc.org).

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED RECAP:** Thank you to all who contributed last month to the Neighbors in Need mission offering. We raised over \$625 which will go to supporting the Council for American Indian Ministry ([caimucc.com](http://caimucc.com)) and projects focusing on environmental justice. Be on the lookout in December for The Christmas Fund, another opportunity to support the global ministry of the United Church of Christ.

**2023 CROP HUNGER WALK:** The Friends Church Youth Group is organizing a team for this year's CROP Hunger Walk, an annual nationwide movement to raise funds for our food insecure neighbors, and to walk three miles in solidarity with those who do so daily to access clean water. The youth group continues their tradition of walking together on Nov. 5, 3pm, at Veterans Park. Funds from the walk benefit Church World Services and the Brazos Church Pantry. To join our team or contribute towards our \$1500 goal, check out our team page: <https://tinyurl.com/2023FCCYouthCROPWalkTeam>

**YOUTH GROUP LOOKING FOR EXTRA HELP:** The Youth Group will be gathering at Friends Church at 6pm on Friday, November 10, after which we are LOCKING the doors. It's lock-in time! Games, snacks, movies and some good old fashion bonding time await our Youth. We'll wrap-up by 8am the next morning. We are needing volunteers to take shifts throughout the night to help out with the youth and make sure everyone stays safe. If you would like to join in on the fun, you can select one of the available slots on the following link. Reach out to Pastor Brooke for questions: [pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org](mailto:pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org). Sign-up: <https://tinyurl.com/fccyouthvolunteer>. Thank you for supporting our Youth!

**CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Volunteers are needed in the childcare room when one of our paid workers is unavailable. Having two adults in the room is required for liability and safety reasons. Volunteers must have a background check, provided by and done through the church office. Volunteers will not be called upon frequently, nor will they be in charge; one of our highly skilled, paid workers will be the point person. Contact Jackie Womack at [moderator@friends-ucc.org](mailto:moderator@friends-ucc.org) for more info.

**INQUIRE + CONNECT:** Are you wanting to learn more about Friends Church? Inquire + Connect is for you! Join us after the worship service on November 5th for the Inquire Class with lunch provided. At the Inquire Class you will learn about Friends—our history, our community, our opportunities for engagement—from church members and one of our pastors. The Inquire Class concludes with an invitation to participate in an optional follow-up Connect Class on November 12th, offered in the home of a church member. In the Connect Class you will learn more about the vision and mission of Friends Church, and how you can “connect” with our various opportunities for nurturing your spirituality, seeking social justice, and getting more involved in the life of our community of faith. For more information and to sign up for Inquire + Connect, email Spiritual Life Chair Becky Burks at [spirit\\_develop@friends-ucc.org](mailto:spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org).

# Friends Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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## 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