

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Children's Sabbath
Sunday
October 19, 2025
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDIATION: Philippians 4:8 (NRSV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

QUOTE FOR MEDITATION:

“Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest, to be completely present to the moment, to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later and somewhere else. Let’s be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.”

–Henri Nouwen

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan De Leon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from *Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*,
by Kaitlin B. Curtice)

Jodie Robinson

One: All of our children belong to all of us because that's what kinship does.
It's a reminder of that dust we came from
and of that dust we will return to.

**All: It's a reminder that while we are here,
we make room for the next generation to spring up from the soil
and create a new landscape.**

One: So our Native children lead us.

**All: Our children of color lead us. Our daughters lead us.
Our queer and nonbinary children lead us.
Our disabled children lead us.**

One: The ones that are forgotten lead us.
The ones that are told to be quiet at the dinner table lead us,
and if we are smart, we will let them lead.

**All: And if we are smart, we will see that we all return to Mystery,
and we are simply to learn what we can along the way,
to embody humility, to stand up to bullies and show them
the way to love and peace. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** - No. 454 Lord, I Want To Be a Christian *I Want To Be a Christian*

***INVOCATION** (From *The Book of Common Worship*, Presbyterian Church (USA))

Jodie Robinson

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Dan De Leon

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Trent Williams

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kyle Riley

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.**

GOSPEL READING

II Peter 1:3-9 (The Message)

Trent Williams

Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received! We were also given absolutely terrific promises to pass on to you—your tickets to participation in the life of God after you turned your back on a world corrupted by lust.

So don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others. With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet, no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus. Without these qualities you can't see what's right before you, oblivious that your old sinful life has been wiped off the books.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

Trent Williams

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

Dan De Leon

INVITATION TO SHARE

Jodie Robinson

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)

Kyle Riley

All: God our strength, you give us so very much, and your blessings grow and multiply in our lives. You call us to share your gifts with others, and so we obey. We thank you for the opportunity to give, and we dedicate these offerings to your work in the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Kyle Riley, Dan De Leon

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 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 - No. 448 Take My Life, God, Let It Be

Vienna

***BENEDICTION** (“Guide My Feet,” by CDF Founder and President Emerita Marian Wright Edelman) (unison)

Trent Williams

O God, help us to recover our hope for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover our courage for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover our discipline for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover our ability to work together for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover our values for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover a spirit of sacrifice for our children’s sake.
Help us to recover our faith in You for our children’s sake. Amen.

***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: How Can I Keep From Singing - Rev. Robert Lowry
Offertory: God Will Take Care of You - W. Stillman Martin, arranged by Phillip Keveren
Communion: Jesus Loves Me - William B. Bradbury, arranged by Joel Raney
Postlude: In Christ Alone - Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, arranged by Larry Shackley

Scriptures for Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 26, 2025: Romans 8:35-39; Job 30:24-31

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

GREETER TRAINING, OCT 19: The friendly faces we see on Sunday mornings welcoming us to worship help to make Friends Church such a wonderful place, and we are so grateful for all that serve as greeters. If you currently serve in this role or would like to know more about this ministry, you are invited to join us for a Greeter Training on October 19 following the 11:00 worship service. We will provide lunch and go over best practices for welcoming and connecting folks, as well as review updated safety and security protocols to ensure a safe environment for all. Register here to let us know you’re coming: bit.ly/greetertraining2025.

CARING FOR CREATION: HOW TEXAS PROP 4 IMPACTS OUR WATER & OUR NEIGHBORS, OCT 19: Caring for Creation: How Texas Prop 4 Impacts Our Water & Our Neighbors, October 19 at 4 p.m. in the double classroom. Aging infrastructure and climate change result in billions of gallons of water lost each year, while groundwater sources are depleted and demand grows. According to the Texas Water Board, clean water supply already outpaces demand. Learn more about the Prop 4 ballot initiative and how to advocate for clean water for future generations by attending this Green Team-sponsored presentation by Sierra Club Water Specialist Evgenia Spears.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS YOUTH GROUP GARDEN PROJECT: Following their environmental justice trip to Denver, the Friends Youth Group decided they wanted to bring what they learned back home and create a community garden. Be part of this great opportunity to help out the Youth Group by signing up at <https://bit.ly/FriendsYouthGarden>, or reaching out directly to Pastor Brooke (pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org)

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.
9am Service bit.ly/0900worship 11am Service bit.ly/1100worship

TEACHING SUPPORT NEEDED FOR GRADES 3-5 CLASS: The 2025-26 Sunday School year is off to a great start with classes for Grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-12, co-led by two teachers for each class. Our Grades 3-5 Class teachers having several Sundays coming up where one of them will need to be absent, so having an additional co-teacher is a must, and a few substitutes as needed will be very helpful. Feeling called to co-teach Sunday School? Please contact Christian Education Committee Chair Loretta Mendez: christian_ed@friends-ucc.org.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE: SIGN CHANGERS: Our church sign is prime real estate for spreading love, hope, and maybe even a holy chuckle. If you've got a creative spark (or a pun or two), help us reimagine our message to the world. Let's make passersby know that we are united by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly. Interested? Sign up to help change the sign—literally! Connect with Megan Alvear at evangelism@friends-ucc.org.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO TV: We catch glimpses of the Gospel message in a play or a Broadway show. Movies tend to have lessons about religion and spirituality. What about a TV series? The shows we consume can teach us something about the faith we practice. Starting October 12th, our pastors explore this with a six-week sermon series. Each Sunday, "The Gospel According to TV" will look at a different show and hold its prominent themes up to scripture to craft the sermon. We'll look at anything from what King of the Hill has to say about loving your neighbor, to what The Good Place tells us about grace and growth, to what The Incredible Hulk teaches us about anger. So, tune in and don't miss an episode in this special sermon series at Friends Church!

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS - WHAT DO WE DO WITH OUR ANGER?: Join the Social Justice Class for a 2-week class on anger, Oct. 12 & 19. Recent SJC discussions have revealed that we struggle with being angry in these turbulent times. What is a faithful response to that honest self-assessment? Pastor Dan leads this class where we take a theological look at human anger. Join us on the left side of the double classroom at 10am on Sundays.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH WOMEN COORDINATOR NEEDED: Wonderful Wednesdays with Women is looking for a coordinator to lead our once a month gathering. Please contact Clarissa Kennedy at nurture@friends-ucc.org or Stacy De Leon at stacybdeleon@gmail.com for details.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SHARE

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.

Be an Acolyte: All children aged 8 and up are welcome to join us in assisting in church services, bringing light and spirit to our worship. Children younger than 8 can participate with an adult partner. Sign up via the sheet in the narthex, <https://bit.ly/FriendsAcolytes>

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.

SAVE THE DATE

PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE, OCT 26: Join a pilgrimage for all people of faith to pray for grace and encounter God in Creation and renew our relationships with God, the Earth and one another hosted by the Laudato Si' Movement of Texas on Sunday, October 26th in St. Mary's Catholic Center Lobby at 12:30. We will then begin the Pilgrimage to the Texas A&M Gardens concluding by 3 pm. Sign up via SignUp Genius, <https://bit.ly/PilgrimageCarpool>, if you would like to carpool. A bag lunch will be provided after."

LINDA COATS BOOK CLUB, OCT 30: Linda Coats Book Club will meet on Thursday, Oct 30 at 6:30pm. Our book will be *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Contact Jodie Robinson for more details.

PUMPKIN DECORATING PARTY, OCT 26: Join us for a fun, family-friendly evening of pumpkin decorating, fellowship, and fall treats on Sunday, Oct 26 from 5-7pm! Bring your pumpkin! We'll have carving and decorating supplies (or bring your own). Enjoy our Popcorn & Nacho Bar, and bring a sweet treat to share! All ages welcome—come for the fun, music, and maybe a little Monster Mash!

ALL SAINTS DAY, NOV 2: Let us honor the Saints who have gone on before us. Friends Church celebrates All Saints Day by recognizing our deceased loved one. Please fill out our Google form to ensure that your Saint is included on All Saints Sunday (Nov. 2). Fill out the form here: <https://forms.gle/rLevTQMA3diBmUh5A>. The names of those who have passed in the last year will be read aloud during the 9am and 11am service, and all names will be listed in the worship guides. The deadline to submit a name is **OCT 30**.

SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP'S CROP HUNGER WALK TEAM, NOV 2: Over the past few years, the Friends Youth have led the charge for our local CROP Hunger Walk, an effort that raises funds for our food insecure neighbors around the world. This year is especially important as we have seen large-scale reductions in funds to food aid programs. Over the past three years, the Friends Youth have raised over \$5,000, and this year they've decided to make that their goal! This year's CROP Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, November 2, 3pm, at Veterans Park. You can support us by joining our team or contributing here: tinyurl.com/FriendsYouth-CROP.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING, NOV 15: Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based course that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use challenge or experiencing a crisis and connect them to resources that can help. This course is being presented in-person and offers a 3-year certification. The training is Sat., Nov 15 from 8:30am - 5:00pm at Friends. Register here: <http://bit.ly/46l8sg5>.

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Pastor Dan's weekday off is Friday. Pastor Trent's weekday off is Monday.