

FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost/All Saints Sunday
November 2, 2025
9:00am



*An Open & Affirming
Congregation*

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION:

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

John 15:13 (NRSV)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WORDS OF WELCOME

Brooke Dooley

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

David Manuel

One: There will be a new heaven and a new earth;

All: We are waiting for the reign of God.

One: The home of God will be among us;

All: We are preparing for the reign of God.

One: God will wipe away every tear from our eyes;

All: We are expecting the reign of God.

One: We gather our hearts to worship our God, whose eternal love knows no end.

All: Amen and Amen.

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

***OPENING HYMN** - No. 299 For All the Saints

Sine Nomine

***INVOCATION**

David Manuel

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Brooke Dooley

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.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Trent Williams

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Ruth 1:1-18, NRSV

Trent Williams

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed

them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

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

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

THE MESSAGE

“Thank You For Being a Friend”

Trent Williams

SILENT PRAYER & MEDITATION

One chime calls us into silence, and two chimes call us out of silence.

INVITATION TO SHARE

David Manuel

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)**

Trent Williams

Living God, we are your people, we carry your presence. Use us and our gifts to accomplish your mission in the world. Multiply our effort to meet every need. This we pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

Chris Hoffman and Carolyn Young

OBSERVANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Brooke Dooley, Trent Williams

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**

***CLOSING HYMN - No. 393 Blessed Be the Tie That Binds**

Dennis

***BENEDICTION**

Trent Williams

***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:	For All the Saints - Ralph Vaughan Williams
Offertory:	Deep River - Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Larry Shackley
Communion:	Shall We Gather at the River - Robert Lowry, arranged by Vicki Collinsworth
Postlude:	Pie Jesu (from <i>Requiem</i>) - Gabriel Fauré

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

SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP'S CROP HUNGER WALK TEAM, NOV 2: In recent years, the Friends Youth have led the charge for our local CROP Hunger Walk, an effort that raises funds for our food insecure neighbors locally and 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, our youth have raised over \$5,000, and this year they've made that their goal! The CROP Hunger Walk is today, Nov. 2, 3pm, at Veterans Park. You can support this effort by joining our team as a walker, making a financial contribution in support of our team, and praying for the CROP Hunger Walk. Visit our team page: tinyurl.com/FriendsYouth-CROP



FIRST FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS, NOV 7: 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.

GUYZ BREAKFAST, NOV 8: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

20th ANNIVERSARY DAN DE LEON MINISTRY FUND: In celebration of Pastor Dan's 20th anniversary serving Friends Church, we launched a 20-week campaign on Sept. 1st to raise \$100,000. The 20DDMF will establish a scholarship for Crockett Elementary School kids; support the Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network's legal defense fund; and set up a sabbatical fund for our pastors. Surplus funds will be saved to construct a playground at Friends Church. Nearly halfway into the campaign, we've raised over \$56,000. Help us reach our goal and then some for the students we support at Crockett Elementary, undocumented immigrants in our community, our pastors, and our children at Friends Church. You can leave a contribution in the offering plate designated for the 20DDMF, or donate online by selecting the "Make a Donation" button on the Giving page at friends-ucc.org, and selecting "20th Anniversary Dan De Leon Ministry Fund" from the Fund dropdown menu.

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!

SEEKING FACILITATORS FOR SMALL GROUPS: As Friends Church grows, we are relaunching Soul Friends, the small groups ministry that started before the pandemic halted it. For these groups of 8 to 10 people to take root, volunteer leaders are needed to facilitate them. These facilitators and/or co-facilitators will communicate with the small groups in their care (announce gathering times and locations, provide helpful info and follow-ups) and lead the group’s meetings. Pastor Dan and Pastor Trent will give a facilitator training at a date to be determined as soon as we have enough volunteers. To volunteer to be a small groups leader or to get more info, contact Pastor Dan (pastor@friends-ucc.org) or Pastor Trent (pastortrent@friends-ucc.org).

COMBINED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & FAITH: Artificial intelligence, or AI, is one of the most talked about technological advances in recent memory. What is it? What does it mean for the future of humanity? What are the ethical and spiritual implications of integrating this technology into our lives? Join the combined adult class on November 2 and 16 at 10am in the double classroom for a two session exploration of AI & Faith: Humanity, Ethics, and the Image of God, facilitated by Pastor Trent. All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE

SB 8 FACT-FINDING TASK FORCE MEETING, NOV 9: Texas’ SB 8, the “bathroom bill,” takes effect on Dec. 4th. “Everyone deserves to be safe in the most private of spaces,” says Human Rights Campaign President Kelley Robinson, but for “transgender Texans in particular, this will make it that much harder to go about their daily lives without fear of violence or harassment.” To advocate for our vulnerable neighbors, Texas Impact has rolled out a fact-finding mission, where local entities—like Friends Church—learn how their local institutions are interpreting and preparing to implement SB 8. The information gathered will help faith leaders, advocates, and policy-makers understand how SB 8 is impacting public systems across Texas and identify potential areas of confusion or concern. You are invited to an initial info-sharing meeting of Friends Church’s SB 8 Fact-Finding Task Force after the 11am service, Sunday, Nov. 9, in the last classroom down the kitchen-side hallway. For more information, contact Task Force Coordinator Martha Newsome: stewardship@friends-ucc.org.

FAMILIES OF ADOPTED & FOSTER CARE CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP, NOV 9: A support group for families with adopted or foster care children meets every second Sunday of the month in the Double Classroom, following the 11:am worship service. Childcare is available in the double classroom. Also, feel free to bring a dish to share with the group. For details, contact Ann Rome: ann.rome@yahoo.com.

20/30 SOMETHINGS BOOK CLUB, NOV 10: The Friends 20/30 Somethings Book Club will be meeting on Monday, Nov. 10, at 6pm to discuss Philip Gulley’s book *If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus*. You do not need to have read the book, just bring a snack and enjoy the conversation. Contact Pastor Brooke for details and address: pastorbrooke@friends-ucc.org

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>.

FRIENDSGIVING DINNER VOLUNTEER SIGNUP, NOV 23: It’s that wonderful time of year again — our beloved Friendsgiving gathering, Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 5:30pm. This event is always a highlight of the season. Because this celebration has grown over the years, we’ve organized the sign-up into clear categories for food, supplies, and volunteer roles. Whether you’re bringing a dish, lending a hand with setup or cleanup, or helping keep the buffet and drink stations running smoothly, your participation makes a big difference. Thank you for helping us create another memorable Friendsgiving!
Sign up online <https://bit.ly/FriendsgivingVolunteerSignupForm>

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